

In the Claims

Kindly add the following new claim:

C1 -- 15. The transdermal therapeutic system according to claim 7, wherein only the active agent depot comprises a support material and the support material consists of paper. --

REMARKS

This invention provides for a transdermal therapy system (TTS), which comprises an active agent depot and a matrix, wherein at least either the active agent depot or the matrix comprises a support material which consists of paper. This invention further provides for a process for preparing the inventive TTS. The inventive TTS exhibits improved processing and delivery properties (See Example 1 and Example 2).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) Applicants petition the Assistant Commissioner to extend the time to file a response to the outstanding Office Action by two (2) months; i.e., up to and including May 23, 2003. A check for \$410.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of this petition. It is believed that no fee is required for the consideration of this Amendment. If, however a further fee is due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0320.

The withdrawal of the previous rejections of record is appreciated.

Claims 7 to 14 stand rejected for allegedly being unpatentable over Hoffman, U.S. 5,820,876 taken in view of Nichols, U.S. 4,804,541. As neither of these patents taken in any fair combination suggests a TTS that comprises an active agent depot or a matrix that comprises a support material which consists of paper, it is urged that the rejection does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.